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## CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR OCTOBER, 1812.

Two of the planets only are visible during this month in the evening, Herschell and Saturn: the former, however, is too near the horizon to be seen with advantage; and the opportunities of seeing Saturn, in favourable positions, are daily increasing. The eastern hemisphere, however, in the morning, displays Jupiter and Venus to great advantage; and in the early part, Mars and Mercury, near the horizon, will add their splendour to the eastern sky.

The Moon is seen, in the morning of the 1st, under Venus and Jupiter, and above the first of the Lion, being near to the star, as she passes it in the afternoon. Before Sun rise, Mercury, with Mars under the Moon, will make the morning view of the eastern sky very interesting. On this day, at night, she passes the ecliptic, in her ascending node, without an eclipse.

On the 5th, is new Moon, at ten minutes after noon.

On the 10th, the Moon is seen to have receded considerably from Antares, but Saturn is still considerably to the east of her.

On the 15th, the Moon is on the meridian at six minutes past eight, having almost directly above her the second of the Water-bearer, and below her the four small stars in the tail of the Goat.

On the 19th, the Moon is on the meridian at forty-six minutes past eleven, having above her, to the east of the meridian, the three first stars of the Ram. To the east of her is the thirteenth of the Fishes, to which she is directing her course; and on the morning of the 20th, she passes over it, the occultation commencing at twenty-seven minutes and a half past three, the star being two minutes north of the centre, and ending at twenty-eight minutes past four, the star being two minutes and forty seconds north of the centre. At fifty-one minutes past eight is full Moon, but without an eclipse. At night she rises under the three first stars of the Ram, and is seen afterwards between them and the small stars in the head of the Whale. She is directing her course to the twelfth of this constellation, the star to the west of the line between the first of the Ram, and the first of the Whale; and before she sets, it will suffer an occultation.

This occultation takes place at twenty-one minutes and a quarter past five, in the morning of the 21st, when the star is twelve minutes, and thirty seconds south of the Moon's centre, and it ends at one minute and three quarters past six, the star being eleven minutes twenty seconds south of the centre. At night, we perceive that she is at some distance from this star, rising under the three first stars of the Ram, and directing her course through the Hyades; in her way, she passes the star in the Bull called  $\gamma$ , which suffers an occultation at fifty-four minutes and a half past nine, the star being six minutes south of the centre; and it emerges at fifty minutes and a quarter past ten, being then eight minutes and three quarters south of the centre. On the 22d, she rises between the third of the Bull and Aldebaran, as she passes over the former star at thirty-three minutes and a half past five, the star being thirteen minutes and a half north of the centre; and it emerges at fifty-nine minutes past five, the star being thirteen minutes and a quarter north of the centre. At one minute past eight, she passes by the first fourth, and at twenty-six minutes past eight the second fourth, and at fifty-seven minutes past eleven Aldebaran suffers an occultation, being then eleven minutes and a half north of the Moon's centre; and at fifty minutes and a quarter past midnight, it emerges, being then eight minutes and a half north of the centre. During the night, therefore, these appearances will occasion considerable interest with astronomers, and the general observer will be struck with the splendour of Orion, under the Moon, and the singularity of the sudden disappearance and re-appearance of Aldebaran.

On the 26th, the Moon rises under the two first of the Twins, being almost in a direct line with them. She is followed by Jupiter, and her progress towards him will amuse the traveller in the night, but he will not see her pass him.

On the 31st, the Moon rises under Venus, as she passed the planet at fifty-seven minutes past one in the morning, and she is soon followed by Mars; and her recess to one, and advance towards the other, will be striking to the early riser.

Mercury is in his superior conjunction on the 28th, a morning star previously, and his duration above the horizon, before Sun-rise, on the 1st, is above an hour and three quarters, but this is daily decreasing.

For the first week we shall be struck with the appearance of the four planets, Mercury, Mars, Venus, and Jupiter, in the order mentioned, Mercury being the lowest of them. The Moon passes him on the fourth.

Venus is a morning star, at her greatest elongation on the 11th. She moves with a direct motion through thirty-one degrees, from a point of the east of the first of the Lion, to a point to the west of the second of the Virgin, but very near to it. Her recess from Jupiter, and slow approach to Mars, will form a considerable feature in this month. The Moon passes her on the 31st in the morning.

Mars is a morning star, his duration above the horizon, before Sun-rise, daily increasing, at first being about two hours. His motion is direct through nineteen degrees and a half, from a point east of the nineteenth of the Lion, to the point nearly under the middle of the line between the seventh and third of the Virgin.

As the height of Mars above the horizon increases, his inferiority in splendour to Venus will be very apparent. Venus being between Jupiter and Mars, may be compared with each, and the difference in the light and colour of these planets will be very evident. The Moon passes Mars on the 3d.

Jupiter is a morning star, but, before the end of the month, he is on the meridian at Sun-rise. His motion is direct through three degrees and a half, from the Nebula in the Crab, through the line between the third and fourth of this constellation. The Moon passes Jupiter on the 27th.

Saturn is on the meridian at thirty-eight minutes past five in the afternoon of the 1st. His motion is direct through two degrees. At first, when on the meridian, he has above him the twelfth of the Archer to the west, and the eleventh below him to the east, but before the end of the month, the latter star is directly under him, when he passes the meridian. The Moon passes him on the 12th.

Herschell is so low in the horizon at Sun-set, that he will not be in a favourable situation the whole month for observation. His motion is direct through a degree and three quarters. He is under the third and sixth of the Balance, and passes the line drawn from the former through the latter stars. The Moon passes him on the 3th.

*Friend's Evening Amusements.*

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is painful to refuse the contributions of those who favour us with their communications; but the impartial distribution of justice, and at the same time the preservation of the credit of our work, are duties. An honest discharge of this duty compels the declaration that an "Ode to a Fly," is inadmissible.

"An Elegy" will have admission on the first vacancy in the poetical department. Some other poetical favours are received, and will be inserted.

"A Dissenter," and some other acceptable communications in prose, came too late for the present Number.

"Remarks upon Sir Humphry Davy's late proposal of the substitution of Oxy muriate of Magnesia for the Oxy muriate of lime, in bleaching; by Dr. Ogilby," was not received until the article of Original Communications had been long closed. They shall appear in the next Number.

An Essay, signed "Quintus Quiz," came too late for insertion this month. It is intended to publish it in the next Number. If he would submit his other essays, they will be candidly judged of.